

ways. They have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of the life of the Nation by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside of the home.

American women have played a unique role throughout the history of the Nation by providing the majority of the volunteer labor force of the Nation and were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions in our Nation. In addition, American women of every race, class, and ethnic background served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement. American women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement, and other movements, especially the peace movement, which create a more fair and just society for all; and

Despite these contributions, the role of American women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued, in literature and the teaching and study of American history which is even more reason to dedicate a museum to all of the trailblazing women throughout history.

HONORING 2010 CENSUS COMMUNITY PARTNERS: ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA, NORTHERN VIRGINIA URBAN LEAGUE AND NORTHERN VIRGINIA COALITION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the Northern Virginia Urban League and the Northern Virginia Coalition for partnering with the U.S. Census Bureau to educate our community on the importance of a complete and accurate count in the 2010 Census.

These organizations kicked off their education initiative with a forum on October 1, 2009 at Alexandria City Hall. Their efforts will be directed toward participation from Northern Virginia's African American community. They will discuss the logistics and strategy behind a successful Census and call on community leaders to take up this historic cause.

A Census is conducted once every 10 years and is mandated by the U.S. Constitution. It counts everyone living in the U.S. to determine the distribution of Congressional seats and the fair allocation of more than \$400 billion in federal funding to state, local and tribal governments. Widespread participation is essential to accurate representation in Congress and the correct apportionment of federal funds. An accurate Census helps to ensure fair representation for all, which is an ideal that lies at the heart of American democracy.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the Northern Virginia Urban League and the Northern Virginia Coalition as responsible community partners for the 2010 Census. I appreciate their call to action as

such partnerships will be vital to the success of the Census.

HONORING BILL AND BETTY KICK

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friends Bill and Betty Kick of Saugerties, New York. Their kind demeanor and dedication to service work stand as a testament to the importance of giving back to the community.

Bill and Betty first met in kindergarten in Teaneck, New Jersey, where they grew up around the corner from one another. It came as no surprise when these childhood sweethearts married just days before Bill left to serve his country during World War II. During his 4 years in the Army, Bill was stationed in France, Germany, and Africa, rising to the difficult and challenging circumstances that this momentous conflict presented. Meanwhile, Betty remained in the U.S., doing her part by working for U.S. Rubber and the Syrian Embassy. Once Bill returned from the war, the couple settled in New York and soon welcomed their wonderful children, Linda and Peter. As new parents, they continued their commitment to community service by volunteering as Scout leaders.

When the time came to retire, and much to our benefit, Bill and Betty chose Saugerties, New York, as their home base. But Bill and Betty were far from homebound. Avid sailors, they have spent much of their retirement sailing around the world, going from Maine to the Florida Keys, and even as far as the South China Sea. In fact, Betty became one of the first female Celestial Navigators in the Hudson Valley. In spite of their passion for sailing, they still make time to volunteer within their community. Local organizations like Benedictine Hospital, Ulster Literacy Association, and the Winston Farm Alliance have all benefited from their time and dedication.

Throughout their lives, Bill and Betty have selflessly donated their time to help better their community. The 22nd District is fortunate to call them our own and it is with great enthusiasm that we look forward to many more years of their reminding us all of the importance of volunteerism.

THAILAND'S MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF AMERICAN SAMOA IN AFTERMATH OF DEVASTATING TSUNAMI

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I submit the following message of support submitted by Ambassador Don Pramudwinai on behalf of Minister of Foreign Affairs Kasit Piromya of the Kingdom of Thailand in response to the massive tsunami that struck American Samoa on Tuesday, September 29, 2009.

ROYAL THAI EMBASSY,

Washington, DC, October 7, 2009.

Hon. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

THE HONORABLE ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA, I have the honor to transmit herewith a condolence message on the earthquakes and tsunami incident in American Samoa from His Excellency Mr. Kasit Piromya, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand to the Honorable as follows:

THE HONORABLE FALEOMAVAEGA, It is with profound sorrow that I learned of the intense magnitude of the undersea earthquakes and tsunami that hit the United States territory of American Samoa on 29 September 2009, causing a terrible loss of lives, widespread property damage and left so many people homeless.

I would like to extend my sincere condolences and heartfelt sympathy to you and, through you, to those families who lost their loved ones as well as those who were distressed by this dreadful disaster. Our thoughts and prayers are with them during this time of sorrow. In 2004, Thailand suffered through the devastating effects of a tsunami, and therefore, we share your grief and understand very well the hardship besetting the people of American Samoa. I am certain that with strong spirit of solidarity of the people of American Samoa, the affected areas will be quickly rehabilitated and restored.

Accept, the Honorable, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

KASIT PIROMYA,

*Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Kingdom of Thailand.*

Please accept, the Honorable, the assurances of my highest consideration.

DON PRAMUDWINAI,

Ambassador.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF LIFE ON AMERICAN SAMOA AND SAMOA AFTER THE EARTHQUAKES AND TSUNAMIS ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 816 to mourn the loss of life and express my condolences for the disaster that took place in Samoa and American Samoa on September 29, 2009.

On that dreadful day, over 150 people lost their lives when a tsunami rose twenty feet into the air and made landfall on the shores of Samoa and American Samoa in the southern region of the Pacific Ocean. The destruction that this tsunami caused was overwhelming, and in addition to the loss of life, countless more individuals have lost their homes and possessions. I extend my deepest condolences to the victims and their families, and offer my deepest sympathies for their loss.

I urge my fellow colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 816 to remember those that died in Samoa and American Samoa on September 29, 2009.